

**PRESCRIBED FIRE POLICY**  
**FOR**  
**THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

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## INTRODUCTION

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The term "prescribed fire," as used in this document, is defined as the planned ignition of natural vegetation or fuels within a pre-determined area, by qualified persons with the intent of achieving certain land management objectives.

Prescribed fire can be used as a tool to achieve a variety of land management objectives and can be used to help minimize the risks of large catastrophic fires. Used in conjunction with mechanical vegetation treatments or by itself, prescribed fire can be used to mimic the natural role fire has played in the ecosystem. Natural and human caused fire has occurred throughout the history of North America and consequently the native vegetation has adapted to periodic fires and, in some cases, requires fire to thrive. In South Dakota, the native grasses of the prairie areas have seen countless fires throughout history and the Ponderosa pine of the Black Hills are a well documented fire adapted species.

With the current land management and fire suppression policies, natural fires have had less of an impact on the vegetation of South Dakota than in the past. As a result of these policies, in many areas, wildland fuels drastically exceed the historic normal levels. This has put South Dakota's forests at risk to large-scale catastrophic fires that threaten public safety and an increase in forest insect/disease outbreaks. The grasslands are threatened by invasion of non-native plants/noxious weeds and lower productivity of forage for grazing. Introducing fire into the forest or grasslands by prescription is not only an environmentally sound practice, it is also an excellent fuels management and fire prevention tool. Past and current conditions support a continuing need for fire in our environment, none would argue its benefits as a management tool; however, fire use is not without inherent risks. The wise application of prescribed fire using a systematic approach of analysis, planning and implementation is necessary to achieve desired results while minimizing the risks.

The authority to conduct prescribed burning is found in South Dakota Codified Law 41-35-18 Setting Fires for Forest and Range Management. SDCL 41-35-18 allows the Secretary of Agriculture or his designee to set fires in woods or prairie for the purposes of forest and range management provided that he has reasonable forces and equipment available to suppress the spread of the fire.

This policy provides the guidelines which the Division of Wildland Fire Suppression will use and follow in all its prescribed burns.

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## POLICY STATEMENT

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1. The use of prescribed fire should be considered in the management strategy for any ecosystem, particularly those determined to be fire adapted.
2. Each prescribed fire conducted by the Division of Wildland Fire Suppression, shall have a prescribed fire plan prepared in advance of the planned ignition. These plans, with the exception of a Level IV plan, will require review by the Prescribed Fire Specialist and approval by the Agency Administrator/Line Officer. Any changes in the plan must be initialed and dated on the front cover page of the plan by the reviewing officials.
3. Each prescribed fire conducted by the Division of Wildland Fire Suppression, shall be done in compliance with an approved plan.
4. All prescribed fires conducted on private lands will have a liability release statement signed by the landowner or his legal designee.
5. Every prescribed fire plan shall have definite and measurable resource management or training objectives.
6. A prescribed fire plan must address actions that will be taken if conditions change. A prescribed fire exceeding prescription or line holding capabilities is a wildfire and appropriate suppression action shall be taken.
7. There will be no unplanned ignitions. All natural, accidental, or escaped fires will be suppressed. Wildfires will not be used to accomplish prescribed burn objectives (Wildland Fire Use for Resource Benefit).

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## APPLICABILITY TO OTHER AGENCIES

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1. The Division of Wildland Fire Suppression will not approve any prescribed fire plan written by another agency that does not adhere to the guidelines set forth in this policy.
2. Another agency conducting a prescribed burn, and requesting manpower assistance from the Division of Wildland Fire Suppression shall have in place, an approved prescribed fire plan.

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## PRESCRIBED FIRE PLANS

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1. There will be four levels of prescribed fire plans. Level I, II and III plans will require a detailed escape contingency section. (See burning levels).

2. Level IV, prescribed fire plans will not require a detailed escape contingency section. It is recommended that a list of available resources and a short narrative is written outlining needed holding/suppression actions.
3. A level IV prescribed fire will require a simplified version of a standard burn plan. It does not require prior approval of the Prescribed Fire Specialist; however, it will need the signature of an appropriate Line Officer and landowner.
4. Prescribed fire plans shall also include the following:
  - a) Management objectives and range of acceptable results expressed in measurable terms.
  - b) A fire prescription that includes weather factors, topographical lay of the land, and fuel conditions necessary to achieve desired fire behavior.
  - c) A description of the burn unit size in acres; and a location described in Township, Range, and Section.
  - d) Firing, Holding, Mop-up and Patrol procedures.
  - e) A provision for smoke management if required.
  - f) A provision for public safety and protection of sensitive features.
  - g) A post burn evaluation process where actual measurements are compared to planned objectives. A burn will not be considered completed until the post burn evaluation has also been completed.
  - h) A maps section which shall include: 1. A site-specific map, 2. Firing sequence maps, 3. A general area map.
  - i) Telephone numbers of agencies (including the news media), that will need to be contacted prior to the burn.
  - j) An escape contingency plan will be required for all Level I, II and III burns.
  - k) A cost section that will outline all estimated costs for a burn and who will pay them. An actual cost statement will be attached to the burn documents after all the costs have been tabulated.

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## ORGANIZATION

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The organization necessary to achieve prescribed fire objectives is based on the site and complexity of the burn and its objectives. Each prescribed fire shall be under the direct supervision of a qualified Burn Boss who has experience with the conditions of weather, fuel, and terrain which are applicable to that particular burn. More complex burns will require a qualified Lighting Boss and Holding Boss. Personnel who meet the qualification required for each position shall be named in the prescribed fire plan.

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## BURNING LEVELS

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In order to determine the appropriate burning level, a Prescribed Fire Complexity Analysis shall be done on all Level I, II and III burns.

The Prescribed Fire Complexity Rating System Guide and Rating Worksheets can be found on the internet at [www.nwcg.gov/pms/RxFire/rxfire.htm](http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/RxFire/rxfire.htm) . Listed below are some guidelines to assist in determining an initial rating prior to running an analysis.

➤ Level I High Risk

A burn that is in the High Risk category could present a threat to lives or developed property because:

- a) The burn objectives are difficult to accomplish because of size, or a high potential for resource damage.
- b) Topography, weather, and fuels present a high potential for fire behavior and fire control problems. These parameters could be a combination of high fuel loading coupled with steep topography; or hot, dry weather with high spotting potential and high rates of spread; or inaccessible topography with potential for high spread rates.
- c) Any use of aerial ignition devices (PSD/Helitorch) will constitute a Level I burn.
- d) The close proximity of structures or houses (within one half mile) of a planned ignition, coupled with high fuel loads, steep terrain, or prescription elements that would require hot, dry weather to achieve a burn objective.

➤ Level II Moderate Risk

- a) Some potential threat to lives or developed property.
- b) Objectives can be accomplished with moderate difficulty.
- c) Topography, weather, and fuels may present some potential for fire behavior and fire control problems.
- d) There are houses within one mile, but not closer than one half mile from the burn site.
- e) There is a moderate probability of some resource damage.

➤ Level III Low Risk

- a) Little or no threat to lives or developed property.
- b) Objectives are easy to accomplish.
- c) Low potential for resource damage.
- d) Topography, weather, and fuels present very low potential for fire behavior and fire control problems.

➤ Level IV Very Low Risk

- a) A level IV burn is essentially a grass fire located in fairly flat to gently rolling topography which does not exceed 50 acres within the Black Hills Forest Fire Protection District or 160<sup>1</sup> acres in size elsewhere and is bounded on at least one side by a barrier such as a plowed field or roadway. Level IV burn plans could also be

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<sup>1</sup> A Level III, or higher burn plan will be needed for any burn exceeding the acreage limits for a Level IV burn.

required by a State FMO (Fire Management Officer) for landowners or contractors to burn large machine piles or hand piled brush in or near housing areas.

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## **PUBLICIZING A BURN**

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The public will be furnished with enough information to understand that a prescribed fire is planned for their immediate or general area. Any prescribed fire that is conducted will be announced through the local media. Telephone numbers for these media outlets will be included on the burn plan. It will be the responsibility of the FMO organizing the burn to make sure this is done.

When a burn is being conducted in close proximity to a housing area, the FMO should hold a "town meeting" with the area residents. This meeting should be held during the planning phase and residents should be contacted again at least 3 days prior to the implementation of the burn.

If there is no housing area in close proximity to the burn site, but scattered residences, the FMO will make contact with these residences. All landowners adjacent to a proposed burn site will be contacted and all aspects of the burn will be discussed with them. If the group is uncomfortable with the proposed plan, the burn will be postponed until these concerns are addressed.

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It will be the responsibility of the FMO organizing the burn to furnish the pertinent information concerning a planned ignition to the Division Information Officer to prepare a news release for the local media outlets. This news release should be submitted to the media at least one week prior to the burn date.

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## **TERMINATION OF A BURN**

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- A prescribed fire will be terminated by the FMO if the landowner, for whatever reason, decides not to execute the burn. The FMO will then notify the Prescribed Fire Specialist that the burn has been terminated. The burn plans will then be placed in an inactive status.
- A prescribed fire will be terminated by the Prescribed Fire Specialist if, in his opinion, the burn cannot be brought to a safe conclusion because of a change in: fuel loading, fuel type, fuel arrangement, or when conditions exist that were not considered in the original plan.
- A prescribed fire can be terminated by the FMO, the Prescribed Fire Specialist, or the Wildland Fire Coordinator, if it has been determined that an environmental risk is involved. Such a risk might be, but is not limited to, an adverse impact to sensitive, threatened/endangered plants or animal species, a smoke problem, or possible soil erosion problems.

- A prescribed fire can be terminated by the Prescribed Fire Specialist or the Wildland Fire Coordinator if it has been determined that there is an archeological site in the area to be burned that cannot adequately be protected.
- A prescribed fire can be terminated by the Wildland Fire Coordinator or other Department Official for political reasons or public concerns.

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## AGENCY COORDINATION

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Prescribed fires can be coordinated with other agencies in several ways. First, efforts should be made to conduct cooperative burns whenever it is feasible. Utilizing natural or manmade barriers instead of constructing fire line along administrative boundaries can greatly reduce the costs of a burn. Example: a prescribed fire may include private land, and State or Federal lands. The entities involved will pay for their own costs unless an agreement for other terms has been reached by all participants prior to the actual burn.

Some prescribed fires may be too large for one agency to handle by themselves, in which case assistance may be needed from another government agency. Other agencies utilizing any State personnel and/or equipment on a burn will be required to reimburse the State of South Dakota for its assistance. When conducting or participating in a burn for other State or Federal agencies, a system of reciprocity may be used where each agency reimburses the other in labor and equipment instead of actual costs. An agreement will need to be in place documenting any alternative billing arrangements.

The use of rural fire departments and equipment on prescribed fires will be treated the same as another government agency, unless that rural fire department agrees, before hand, to donate its time and equipment to the landowner involved. These alternatives will be documented prior to the implementation of the burn.

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## TRAINING BURNS

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The use of prescribed fire as a training exercise can be a valuable and legitimate tool. Training burns shall be large enough to provide a quality training experience, however they will be limited to a Level IV burn complexity, and must be preceded by at least four hours of classroom time.

Training fires will only be conducted as a supplement to a prescribed fire workshop or class. A detailed prescribed fire plan must be submitted and approved by the Prescribed Fire Specialist and the Wildland Fire Coordinator. The cost for training fires will be covered by the agencies involved or by agreement with cooperators. Training fires may be terminated for the same reasons as other prescribed fires.



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## **PRESCRIBED FIRE COSTS, AND BILLING PROCEDURES**

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Any recipient of prescribed fire services that have been provided by the Division of Wildland Fire Suppression will be charged for those services (excluding costs which are associated with the planning of the burn). The recipient of those services will be expected to pay for materials expended during the course of a burn. Such materials shall include, but are not limited to: Class A Foam; Fire retarding agents; Drip torch fuel and other ignition devices; all meals and lodging (if required). All costs incurred by the Division of Wildland Fire Suppression in excess of normal budgeted personnel time for conducting a prescribed burn will be reimbursed by the landowner. The cost of vehicles and equipment will also be charged to the landowner. If assistance is needed from another agency to conduct the burn, and since the landowner is required to pay the cost of a prescribed burn, the cost of these additional forces will be passed on to them.

The FMO who is planning a burn will provide the landowner with a statement outlining the estimated costs for the prescribed fire.

The Fire Business Accountant will prepare and send an invoice to the landowner detailing the actual costs after completion of the burn according to agency guidelines.

### **Appendix**

Standard Burn Plans (Level I-III & Level IV) have been attached to this Policy as part of the appendices. The liability statement (Ref. Page 1) is on the second page of each burn plan. An optional Pile Burning Plan that can be used on an as needed basis is the last document of the appendices. The Liability Release form needed for Pile Burning on Private land can be found on the last page of this document.

# **PRESCRIBED BURN PLAN**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Project Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Project Location

\_\_\_\_\_  
Acreage

\_\_\_\_\_  
Burn Level

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proposed Date

Prepared By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Field Representative

Reviewed By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Prescribed Fire Specialist

Approved By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Division Director or Representative

Reviewed By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Landowner or Representative

## PREScribed BURNING RELEASE

\_\_\_\_\_  
Project Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Project Location

\_\_\_\_\_  
Acreage

Having read the attached burning prescription, I agree that prescription reflects my objectives for managing my land, and that the practice described in this plan will help me accomplish those objectives. I intend to initiate the practices recommended in this prescription on the described real property listed above.

Furthermore, I \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ County, State of South Dakota, acknowledge by my signature below, that I am aware of, appreciate the character of and voluntarily assume the risks involved in conducting this prescribed burn on or about the \_\_\_\_\_ (day) of \_\_\_\_\_ (Month), 20 \_\_\_\_\_

By my signature below, on behalf of myself, my heirs, next of kin, successors in interest, assigns, personal representatives, and agents, I hereby:

1. Waive any claim or cause of action against and release from liability the State of South Dakota, its officers, employees, and agents for any liability for injuries to my person or property resulting from this prescribed burn;

2. Agree to indemnify and hold harmless the State of South Dakota, its officers, employees, and agents for any claims, causes of action, or liability to any other person or property arising from the prescribed burn;

3. State that I am fully authorized to make decisions regarding the management of the property described above and that I either hold fee title to the property or have received consent to make such decisions from the title holder(s) by virtue of contract for deed, Power of Attorney, or other written consent. I have full authority to release and waive liability, assume risk, and indemnify others (including the State and its officers, employees, and agents) from liability for acts performed on the land described above.

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF THE RISK AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND HAVE SIGNED IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT, ASSURANCE, OR GUARANTEE BEING MADE TO ME AND INTEND MY SIGNATURE TO BE A COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF ALL LIABILITY TO THE GREATEST EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Landowner's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Landowner's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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## PLAN SECTION

### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

#### Primary

1.

2.

3.

#### Secondary

1.

2.

3.

Report Section  
Objectives fully met, partially, or not at all?

--

# DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT FUELS

## 1. Activity fuels

- a. For pre-commercial thinning slash, give the fuel loading \_\_\_\_\_ TPA. What is the estimated age of the slash? \_\_\_\_\_ Years.
- b. Principal carrier of the fire: Continuous slash \_\_\_\_\_ Scattered slash & grass \_\_\_\_\_ Slash & duff \_\_\_\_\_
- c. For logging slash, give fuel loading estimate \_\_\_\_\_ TPA. What is the estimated age of the slash? \_\_\_\_\_ Years.
- d. Check the physical characteristic that is most appropriate.
- (a) Generally small to medium branchwood \_\_\_\_\_, Continuous \_\_\_\_\_, Patchy \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) With fines \_\_\_\_\_, without fines \_\_\_\_\_, Continuous \_\_\_\_\_, Patchy \_\_\_\_\_.
- (c) Red slash \_\_\_\_\_, Continuous \_\_\_\_\_, Patchy \_\_\_\_\_.

## 2. For burning under a pine canopy (underburn), give stand condition

- (a) Average DBH \_\_\_\_\_ Inches Stand age \_\_\_\_\_ yrs.
- (b) Average crown Ht. \_\_\_\_\_ Feet Stems/Acre \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) Basal area \_\_\_\_\_ Sq. Feet Stand type \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) Crown closure 0-100% \_\_\_\_\_ %

What is the acceptable scorch height \_\_\_\_\_ Ft.

What is the acceptable mortality, (give percent of trees/acre) \_\_\_\_\_ % (pole size and overstory)

## 3. Grass, Forbs, and Duff

- (a) Grass and duff, (underburn) \_\_\_\_\_ (Principle carrier of the fire)
- (b) Grass mixed with brush \_\_\_\_\_ (c) Grass, brush and duff \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) Grass, logging slash (clear-cut, open area) \_\_\_\_\_
- (e) Grass only \_\_\_\_\_ Percent of green \_\_\_\_\_ %
- (f) Other fuels or fuel elements \_\_\_\_\_

## BURN SITE TOPOGRAPHY

1. Aspect, check one:

(a) Flat \_\_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_\_, N/E \_\_\_\_\_, E \_\_\_\_\_, S/E \_\_\_\_\_, S \_\_\_\_\_, S/W \_\_\_\_\_, N \_\_\_\_\_, N/W \_\_\_\_\_

2. Average slope (0-100%) \_\_\_\_\_ %

3. Average ridge/valley elevation difference, 0-4000 Ft. \_\_\_\_\_ Ft.

4. Position on slope: Bottom to top \_\_\_\_\_, Bottom to mid-slope \_\_\_\_\_,  
Bottom to upper 1/3 \_\_\_\_\_, Upper 1/3 to top \_\_\_\_\_, Ridge top \_\_\_\_\_.

5. Topographical shaping of the airflow. Description and location of topographic features, their expected effects, and any special precautions to be taken:

**NARRATIVE**

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper appears to be a standard notebook page or a sheet of stationery. There is no handwriting or other markings on the page.

## WEATHER DATA

In the box below, enter the ideal burning conditions

1. Preferred month to burn \_\_\_\_\_, day \_\_\_\_\_, expected time of ignition \_\_\_\_\_
2. Optimum ambient air temperature \_\_\_\_\_ F. RH \_\_\_\_\_ % 20' wind speed \_\_\_\_\_ MPH
3. Preferred Wind direction \_\_\_\_\_ 1 hour fuel moisture \_\_\_\_\_ % 10 hr. fuel moisture \_\_\_\_\_ %

In the box below, enter acceptable burning conditions

1. Acceptable month(s) to burn \_\_\_\_\_, Ambient air temperature \_\_\_\_\_ f. To \_\_\_\_\_ f.
2. Relative Humidity range \_\_\_\_\_ % to \_\_\_\_\_ %. 20' Winds \_\_\_\_\_ MPH to \_\_\_\_\_ MPH.
3. Acceptable wind direction(s) \_\_\_\_\_ 1 hr. FM \_\_\_\_\_ % to \_\_\_\_\_ %  
10 hr. FM \_\_\_\_\_ % to \_\_\_\_\_ %

Attach Spot Wx forecast and on-site readings the day of burn to Maps/Appendix section

## FIRE BEHAVIOR DATA

### 1. FUEL MODEL CRITERIA

- a. Fuel model (primary) \_\_\_\_\_, Fuel model (secondary) \_\_\_\_\_ Use two fuel model concept? \_\_\_\_\_  
Y/N
- b. Fuel arrangement: Continuous \_\_\_\_\_ Scattered \_\_\_\_\_ Patchy \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Compaction ratio: Dense \_\_\_\_\_ Loose \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. EXPOSURE OF FUELS TO THE WIND, CHECK ONE

- a. Fully exposed \_\_\_\_\_ (Range land, meadows, and, Ridge tops)
- b. Partially exposed \_\_\_\_\_ (Mostly flat but with rolling hills and some draws)
- c. Partially sheltered \_\_\_\_\_ (Lee side of hills, lightly forested)
- d. Fully sheltered \_\_\_\_\_ (Heavily forested areas)

### 3. BEHAVE RUN - FROM "OPTIMUM INPUT"

- a. Rate of spread, (chains per hour) \_\_\_\_\_ CPH
- b. Fireline intensity \_\_\_\_\_ BTU/SQ/FT
- c. Flame length \_\_\_\_\_ Ft.
- d. Spotting potential \_\_\_\_\_ %
- e. Maximum spotting distance \_\_\_\_\_ Ft.

(Run data continues on the next page)



#### 4. BEHAVE RUN - "ACCEPTABLE" INPUT DATA (AVERAGE)

a. Rate of spread, (chains per hour)\_\_\_\_\_CPH      d. Spotting potential\_\_\_\_\_%

b. Fireline Intensity\_\_\_\_\_BTU/SQ//FT    e. Maximum spotting distance\_\_\_\_\_Ft.

c. Flame length \_\_\_\_\_ Ft.

**Attach BEHAVE runs to the Maps/Appendix section**

## PRESCRIPTION ELEMENTS

## 1. Pretreatment Plan

List pretreatment measures to be taken. Consider the following during pretreatment: Length in chains of control line, chains of machine, hand, and fire built control lines, snag falling, heavy slash removed along control lines, etc.

**NARRATIVE**

[illegible]

## FIRING PLAN

1. List firing methods and sequences:

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Attach Firing Maps to Map/Appendix section

## SMOKE MANAGEMENT PLAN

a. Wind direction - burn site.....desired\_\_\_\_\_acceptable\_\_\_\_\_

Transport wind direction.....desired\_\_\_\_\_acceptable\_\_\_\_\_

Smoke Dispersal.....desired\_\_\_\_\_acceptable\_\_\_\_\_

Stability factors.....desired\_\_\_\_\_acceptable\_\_\_\_\_

b. List any possible smoke dispersal problems such as highways, roads, housing areas, hospitals etc.

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c. How will these problems be addressed? \_\_\_\_\_

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d. Other conditions/Specifications: \_\_\_\_\_

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Attach SASEM & CONSUME runs and Smoke Mgt Map w/ critical receptors in Map/appendix section .

## ORGANIZATION

### 1. Organization & Assignments:

- a. Approving Line Office \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Burn Boss \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Lighting Boss \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Lighting Crew \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- e. Holding Boss \_\_\_\_\_
- f. Holding Crew \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- g. Fire Behavior Analyst \_\_\_\_\_
- h. Weather Obs \_\_\_\_\_ Photographer \_\_\_\_\_
- i. Number of Radios needed \_\_\_\_\_

## EQUIPMENT NEEDS

### 1. Equipment Needs:

- a. Number of Engines by type: Type 7 (\_\_\_\_\_) Type 6 (\_\_\_\_\_) Type 4 (\_\_\_\_\_), Other \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Number of Water Tenders by type: Type 3 (\_\_\_\_\_) Type 2 (\_\_\_\_\_) Type 1 (\_\_\_\_\_) Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- c. List any special equipment needs such as dozers, graders, plows, CAFS, Foam Concentrate etc.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- d. Number of Drip Torches \_\_\_\_\_ Torch Fuel \_\_\_\_\_ gals.
- e. Portable Pumps \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Hose: 3/4" (\_\_\_\_\_) ft.), 1" (\_\_\_\_\_) ft.), 1 1/2" (\_\_\_\_\_) ft.)

## UNIT ASSIGNMENTS

Name

Agency

Unit by type

## Assignment

[illegible]

## ESCAPE CONTINGENCY PLAN

1. Should this burn escape control, it will be the responsibility of the burn boss to declare an escaped fire. Once a prescribed fire has been declared a wildfire, this contingency plan will become the organizational guide for the suppression forces.

a. Incident Commander \_\_\_\_\_

b. Operations Chief \_\_\_\_\_

c. Division Supervisor(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

d. Strike Team Leader(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

e. Engine/Crew Assignments

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

g. List other available resources \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

h. Closest Forces available for back-up (Names & Phone numbers)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

i. Radio Channels: Command \_\_\_\_\_

Operations \_\_\_\_\_

Division A \_\_\_\_\_ Division B \_\_\_\_\_

Other

\_\_\_\_\_

## MOP-UP PROCEDURES

1. Narrative: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## SAFETY

2. Safety Precautions: make sure that all precautions have been taken to insure public safety as well as the safety of personnel involved in the burning. Address planned action in each suggested area.

- A. Confine spectators to observation area.
- B. Make sure landowner's cattle, etc., are in a safe area and can be easily moved if necessary.
- C. Make certain everyone participating in the burn is aware of all plans, and that they all have maps.
- D. Escape Routes/Safety Zones are identified, personnel have all PPE and communication.
- E. Additional considerations (Smoke impacts to personnel, Special hazards).

## PUBLIC INFORMATION

1. Contacts:
- A. Local Landowners:
  - B. Great Plains Interagency Dispatch: 393-8017
  - C. Notify USFS Ranger Stations:
  - D. County Dispatch(s):
  - E. Radio Station(s):

F. Notify Television Stations/Newspapers:

G. Other:

### Maps

Showing purposed line location, firing sequence. Show key control features such as location and capacity of water sources, escape routes, and equipment placement.

## POST BURN ANALYSIS

- a. Make sure that the slip containing weather data from the belt weather kit has been attached to this plan.
- b. Record Actual on site fuel moisture for: 1 Hr. \_\_\_\_\_% 10 Hr. \_\_\_\_\_% 100 Hr. \_\_\_\_\_%
- c. Observed flame length \_\_\_\_\_ Ft. Est. rate of spread \_\_\_\_\_ CPH
- d. Crowning problems? \_\_\_\_\_, Spotting problems? \_\_\_\_\_.
- e. Report any significant control problems:

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- f. Report any departure from the planned burning pattern:

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- g. Were the plan objectives met? \_\_\_\_\_. State the measurable results as compared with the planned results. \_\_\_\_\_

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## GO-NO-GO CHECK LIST

(A "NO" response to any item means Stop!)

1. Is burn plan complete and approved? (Yes) (No)
2. Are all fire prescription specifications met? (Yes) (No)
3. Are all smoke management prescription specifications met? (Yes) (No)
4. Is the current and projected fire weather forecast favorable? (Yes) (No)
5. Have all air quality considerations and smoke requirements been met? (Yes) (No)
6. Are all personnel, required in the prescribed burn plan, on site? (Yes) (No)
7. Have all personnel been briefed on the prescribed burn plan requirements? (Yes) (No)
8. Have all personnel been briefed on safety hazards, escape routes and safety zones? (Yes) (No)
9. Is all of the required equipment in place and in working order? (Yes) (No)
10. Are available resources, including backup resources adequate for containment of escapes under worst-case conditions? (Yes) (No)
11. Has an adequate contingency plan been developed? (Yes) (No)
12. In your opinion, can the burn be carried out according to plan and will it meet the planning objective? (Yes) (No)
13. All notifications handled? (Yes) (No)
14. Test Fire completed with satisfactory results? (Yes) (No)
15. Are answers to all of the above questions yes? (Yes) (No)

---

Signature Burn Boss

Date

Time



## COST DATA FOR THE \_\_\_\_\_ BURN

[illegible]

## TRANSPORTATION & EQUIPMENT COSTS

[illegible]

---

LEVEL IV BURN PLAN

---

\_\_\_\_\_  
Project Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Project Location

\_\_\_\_\_  
Acreage

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Prepared By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Field Representative

Approved By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Responsible Agency Director

## PREScribed BURNING RELEASE

\_\_\_\_\_  
Project Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Project Location

\_\_\_\_\_  
Acreage

Having read the attached burning prescription, I agree that prescription reflects my objectives for managing my land, and that the practice described in this plan will help me accomplish those objectives. I intend to initiate the practices recommended in this prescription on the described real property listed above.

Furthermore, I \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ County,  
State of South Dakota, acknowledge by my signature below, that I am aware of, appreciate the  
character of and voluntarily assume the risks involved in conducting this prescribed burn on or about  
the \_\_\_\_\_ (day) of \_\_\_\_\_ (Month), 20 \_\_\_\_\_.

By my signature below, on behalf of myself, my heirs, next of kin, successors in interest, assigns,  
personal representatives, and agents, I hereby:

1. Waive any claim or cause of action against and release from liability the State of South  
Dakota, its officers, employees, and agents for any liability for injuries to my person or property  
resulting from this prescribed burn;

2. Agree to indemnify and hold harmless the State of South Dakota, its officers, employees,  
and agents for any claims, causes of action, or liability to any other person or property arising from the  
prescribed burn;

3. State that I am fully authorized to make decisions regarding the management of the  
property described above and that I either hold fee title to the property or have received consent to  
make such decisions from the title holder(s) by virtue of contract for deed, Power of Attorney, or  
other written consent. I have full authority to release and waive liability, assume risk, and indemnify  
others (including the State and its officers, employees, and agents) from liability for acts performed on  
the land described above.

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF THE RISK  
AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND  
THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND HAVE SIGNED  
IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT, ASSURANCE, OR  
GUARANTEE BEING MADE TO ME AND INTEND MY SIGNATURE TO BE A  
COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF ALL LIABILITY TO THE GREATEST  
EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Landowner's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Landowner's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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## MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

### I List the management objectives by priority.

#### Primary

1.

2.

3.

#### Secondary

1.

2.

3.

Report Section  
Objectives fully met, partially, or not at all?

## PREScription OBJECTIVES

- a. For broadcast burning give size \_\_\_\_\_ Acres. Fuel Model (Underline) FM 1, FM 2, FM3,  
Other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b. Firing plan (How will it be fired?) \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Fire Behavior (flame length/ROS) \_\_\_\_\_

## WEATHER DATA

- a. Acceptable Temperature range \_\_\_\_\_ F. to \_\_\_\_\_ F., Optimum Temperature \_\_\_\_\_ F.
- b. Acceptable 20' Wind speed \_\_\_\_\_ MPH to \_\_\_\_\_ MPH, Optimum Wind speed \_\_\_\_\_ MPH.
- c. Acceptable Wind Direction \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, Optimum Direction \_\_\_\_\_.
- d. Acceptable Relative Humidity range \_\_\_\_\_ % to \_\_\_\_\_ % Optimum RH \_\_\_\_\_ %

## SMOKE MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- a. List any possible smoke dispersal problems such as highways, housing areas, or hospitals which  
might be affected. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Note:** this burn plan is for pile burns and Broadcast burns in FM1, FM2, or FM3 (only) and can be no larger than 50 acres in size within the Black Hills Forest Fire Protection District or 160 acres elsewhere in the State. **\*\***

## ORGANIZATION

### I. Organization Assignments:

- a. Approving Line Officer \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Burn Boss \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Lighting Boss \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Lighting Crew \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Holding Boss \_\_\_\_\_
- f. Holding Crew \_\_\_\_\_
- g. Total personal needed for the above positions \_\_\_\_\_

## EQUIPMENT

### Equipment Needs:

- a. Number of Engines by type: Type 7 ( \_\_\_\_\_ ), Type 6 ( \_\_\_\_\_ ), Type 4 ( \_\_\_\_\_ ),  
Other \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Number of Water Tenders: Type 3 ( \_\_\_\_\_ ), Type 2 ( \_\_\_\_\_ ), Type 1 ( \_\_\_\_\_ ),  
Other \_\_\_\_\_
- c. List any special equipment needs such as , graders, plows, CAFS \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Number of radios needed: Hand-held \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile radios \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Number of Drip torches \_\_\_\_\_ Torch fuel \_\_\_\_\_ gals.
- f. Portable pumps \_\_\_\_\_ Additional hose: 3/4" ( \_\_\_\_\_ ft), 1" ( \_\_\_\_\_ ft),  
1.5" ( \_\_\_\_\_ ft).

## HOLDING/CONTINGENCY/MOP-UP PROCEDURES

### Narrative:

Safety Precautions: Insure that all precautions are taken to insure public safety as well as the safety of personnel involved in the burning. Address planned action in each suggested area.

- a. Confine spectators to observation area.
- b. Make sure landowners cattle, etc., are in a safe area and can be easily moved if necessary.
- c. Make certain everyone participating in burn is aware of all plans and that they all have maps.
- d. Escape Routes/Safety Zones identified, personnel have all PPE and communication
- e. Additional considerations (smoke impacts to personnel, Special Hazards).

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### Public Information:

- a. Great Plains Dispatch: 393-8017
- b. County Dispatch:
- c. Local Media:
- d. Local landowners:



# GO-NO-GO CHECK LIST

(A "NO" response to any item means Stop!)

1. Is burn plan complete and approved? (Yes) (No)
2. Are all fire prescription specifications met? (Yes) (No)
3. Are all smoke management prescription specifications met? (Yes) (No)
4. Is the current and projected fire weather forecast favorable? (Yes) (No)
5. Have all air quality considerations and smoke requirements been met? (Yes) (No)
6. Are all personnel, required in the prescribed burn plan, on site? (Yes) (No)
7. Have all personnel been briefed on the prescribed burn plan requirements? (Yes) (No)
8. Have all personnel been briefed on safety hazards, escape routes and safety zones? (Yes) (No)
9. Is all of the required equipment in place and in working order? (Yes) (No)
10. Are available resources, including backup resources adequate for containment of escapes under worst-case conditions? (Yes) (No)
11. Has an adequate contingency plan been developed? (Yes) (No)
12. In your opinion, can the burn be carried out according to plan and will it meet the planning objective? (Yes) (No)
13. All notifications handled? (Yes) (No)
15. Test Fire completed with satisfactory results? (Yes) (No)
15. Are answers to all of the above questions yes? (Yes) (No)

---

Signature Burn Boss

Date

Time

---

## PILE BURN PLAN

---

\_\_\_\_\_  
Project Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Project Location

\_\_\_\_\_  
Acreage

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Prepared By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Field Representative

Approved By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Responsible Agency Director

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## MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

I List the management objectives by priority.

Primary

1.

Secondary

1.

Report Section  
Objectives fully met, partially, or not at all?

--

## PRESCRIPTION ELEMENTS

### IGNITION PLAN

a. Firing plan (How will it be fired?) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### WEATHER DATA

a. Acceptable Temperature/Snow Pack Conditions \_\_\_\_\_  
b. Acceptable 20' Wind speed \_\_\_\_\_ MPH    c. Acceptable Wind Direction \_\_\_\_\_

### SMOKE MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

a. List any possible smoke dispersal problems such as highways, housing areas, or hospitals which might be affected. \_\_\_\_\_

Note: this burn plan is for pile burns ONLY.

## ORGANIZATION

### I. Organization Assignments:

a. Approving Line Officer \_\_\_\_\_

b. Burn Boss/Lighting Crew \_\_\_\_\_

## EQUIPMENT

### Equipment Needs:

a. List any special equipment needs such as: Engines/TerraTorch etc. \_\_\_\_\_

b. Number of Drip torches \_\_\_\_\_ Torch fuel \_\_\_\_\_ gals

## HOLDING/CONTINGENCY/MOP-UP PROCEDURES

### Narrative:

--

## SAFETY

Insure that all precautions are taken to insure public safety as well as the safety of personnel involved in the burning. Narrative:

--

## PUBLIC INFORMATION

a. Great Plains Dispatch: 393-8017 County 911 Center:

b. Local landowners/media:

**PILE BURNING PRESCRIBED BURN PLAN  
RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY,  
ASSUMPTION OF THE RISK AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Project Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Project Location**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Estimated # of Piles**

By my signature below, on behalf of myself, my heirs, next of kin, successors in interest, assigns, personal representatives, and agents, I hereby:

1. Agree that the burning of slash piles on my property reflects my objectives for managing my land and mitigating the threat of wildfire, and that this practice will help me accomplish those objectives;
2. Waive any claim or cause of action against and release from liability the State of South Dakota, its officers, employees, and agents for any liability for injuries to my person or property resulting from my participation in the burning of slash piles;
3. Agree to indemnify and hold harmless the State of South Dakota, its officers, employees, and agents for any claims, causes of action, or liability to any other person arising from my participation in the burning of slash piles;
4. State that I am fully authorized to make decisions regarding the management of the property described above and that I either hold fee title to the property or have received consent to make such decisions from the title holder(s) by virtue of contract for deed, Power of Attorney, or other written consent. I have full authority to release and waive liability, assume risk, and indemnify others (including the State and its officers, employees, and agent(s)) from liability for acts performed on the land described above.

Furthermore, I \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ County, State of South Dakota, acknowledge by my signature below, that I am aware of, and voluntarily assume any risk involved in the burning of slash piles on my property at such time that conditions exist for burning operations.

I HAVE READ THIS PILE BURNING PRESCRIBED BURN PLAN RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF THE RISK AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND HAVE SIGNED IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT, ASSURANCE OR GUARANTEE BEING MADE TO ME AND INTEND MY SIGNATURE TO BE A COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF ALL LIABILITY THE GREATEST EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Landowner Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Landowner Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

Prepared By \_\_\_\_\_  
Field Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

Reviewed By \_\_\_\_\_  
Division Director or Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**